**AKWESASNE CULTURAL CENTER**
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**
**April 17, 2025**

**Board Members in Attendance:**
Phillip White Cree, President, Vice President; Michelle Cook, Secretary; Lora Lee LaFrance; Cayde David

**Staff in Attendance:**
Justin Cree, Director

**Absent Board Members:**
Tiffany Cree, Jessica Sargent and Kerry Mitchell

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:44 PM

**2. Approval of Agenda**
The agenda was presented and accepted without changes.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Lora Lee to accept the minutes with corrections from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Michelle. All in favor, motion passed.

**3. Old Business**

Assurances for Training were briefly discussed. No further actions were noted at this time.

**4. Upcoming May Events**

The following events are scheduled for May. May 3rd we will have a Free Comic Book Day

Event with a "How to Draw a Superhero" Workshop led by Honni David. Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Akwesasne Taskforce will once again do weekly Log Pounding Demonstration on Thursdays in May from 9 AM to 4 PM. There will be a Compost Panel hosted by John Bonaparte of Bare Bones Farm May 10th from Noon-3pm. More Mommy and Me sessions to be hosted by Noelle LaTrace (volunteer) to be announced. Angello Johnson will be teaching a XL Pack Basket Workshop on May 16th (4pm-8pm) and 17th(10am-2pm).

**5. Cultural Meetings**

Phillip proposed that the library host cultural meetings. Justin confirmed there would be no issue accommodating such events. Once Phillip provides the dates, announcements will be made to promote them.

**6. Gala Update**

Tickets go on sale April 23 via Eventbrite. The Gala date is June 7, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 9:00pm. The gala will feature: dinner buffet, silent and live auctions (including art and fashion),

painting demonstrations, a performance by Bear Fox, and speeches by the board and Akwesasne Cultural team.

**7. Job Posting**

The position of Library Clerk/Cultural Educator was posted and remains open until filled.

**8. Display Case Purchase**

Justin requested board approval to purchase a display case for the return and display of ancestral belongings. Justin stated that the purchase and will be reimbursed by the MCA Akwesasne Rights & Research Office. Motion to approve the expense was made by Cayde and seconded by Michelle. The motion was passed.

**9. Graduation Recognition**

Phillip raised concern about the absence of a local newspaper to announce student graduations, which leaves students without public recognition. He suggested hosting a student recognition reception at the library. Justin recommended that Phillip collaborate with the library team to organize the event.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

The next meeting will be held on May 15, 2025, at 4:30 PM